

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An articulating guidewire, comprising:
an elongated core wire having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end;
an actuatable stop disposed at the distal end of said core wire, said actuatable stop moveable between a collapsed position and an expanded position the stop having a first diameter in the expanded position;

an actuator positioned adjacent the stop, said actuator moveable between a first position and a second position to move the stop between the collapsed position and the expanded position; and

a filter slidably disposed on the core wire proximally of said actuatable stop the filter having an expanded position with a second diameter, the second diameter being larger than the first diameter, allowing fluids that flow through the filter to flow around the stop.

2. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein said actuatable stop comprises a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end.

3. (original) The guidewire of claim 2, wherein the distal section of said tubular member includes a plurality of circumferentially disposed openings adapted to permit a plurality of struts disposed therebetween to expand in an outward direction.

4. (original) The guidewire of claim 2, wherein the inner diameter of said tubular member is substantially similar to the outer diameter of the core wire.

5. (original) The guidewire of claim 2, wherein the inner diameter of said tubular member is larger than the outer diameter of the core wire.

6. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism adapted to prevent relative motion between the actuatable stop and the core wire.

7. (original) The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the locking mechanism comprises an enlarged outer diameter portion disposed on the core wire.

8. (original) The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the locking mechanism comprises an enlarged outer diameter portion disposed on the core wire corresponding in size and shape to a reduced inner diameter portion disposed on the actuatable stop.

9. (original) The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a locking hub disposed about a proximal portion of the core wire.

10. (previously presented) An articulating guidewire, comprising:
an elongated core wire having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end;
an actuatable stop disposed at the distal end of said core wire, said actuatable stop moveable between a collapsed position and an expanded position;
an actuator disposable about the core wire, said actuator having a proximal end and a distal end; and
a filter slidably disposed on the core wire proximally of said actuatable stop.

11. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein said actuatable stop comprises a spring coil.

12. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein said actuatable stop comprises a spring coil helically disposed about the core wire.

13. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein said actuatable stop comprises a polymeric tube.

14. (original) The guidewire of claim 13, wherein said polymeric tube is accordion-shaped.

15. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein said actuatable stop comprises a mesh sleeve.

16. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 15, wherein said mesh sleeve comprises a synthetic polyester material.

17. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein the inner diameter of the actuator is substantially similar to the outer diameter of the core wire.

18. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, wherein the inner diameter of the actuator is larger than the outer diameter of the core wire.

19. (original) The guidewire of claim 10, further comprising a locking mechanism adapted to prevent proximal motion of the actuator relative to the core wire.

20. (original) The guidewire of claim 19, wherein the locking mechanism comprises an enlarged outer diameter portion disposed on the core wire.

21. (original) The guidewire of claim 19, wherein the locking mechanism comprises an enlarged outer diameter portion disposed on the core wire corresponding in size and shape to a reduced inner diameter portion disposed on the actuator.

22. (original) The guidewire of claim 19, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a locking hub disposed about a proximal portion of the core wire.

23. (currently amended) A method for placing an articulating guidewire in the vasculature, comprising the steps of:

providing an articulating guidewire comprising an elongated core wire having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end; an actuatable stop disposed at the distal end of the core wire, and an actuator positioned adjacent the actuatable stop, said actuator moveable between first and second positions, wherein moving the actuator between the first and second positions causes the actuatable stop to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, and wherein the actuator has a first diameter in the expanded position;

inserting the guidewire into the lumen of a blood vessel;

positioning a distal portion of the guidewire beyond a lesion or other protrusion within the body;

actuating the actuatable stop from the collapsed position to the expanded position;

and

advancing a filter on the guidewire to the stop, the filter having an expanded position with a second diameter, the second diameter being larger than the first diameter allowing fluids that flow through the filter to flow around the stop.

24. (original) The method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of advancing an intravascular device along the core wire until the intravascular device abuts the outwardly expanded stop.

25. (previously presented) A method for placing an articulating guidewire in the vasculature, comprising the steps of:

providing an articulating guidewire comprising an elongated core wire having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end; an actuatable stop disposed at the distal end of the core wire, said actuatable stop moveable between a collapsed position and an expanded position; and an actuator moveable about the core wire, said actuator having a proximal end and a distal end;

inserting the guidewire into the lumen of a blood vessel;

positioning a distal portion of the guidewire beyond a lesion or other protrusion within the body;

actuating the stop from the collapsed position to the expanded position; and

advancing a filter on the guidewire.

26. (original) The method in accordance with claim 25, further comprising the step of advancing an intravascular device along the guidewire until the intravascular device abuts the outwardly expanded stop.

27. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 25, wherein the actuator is coupled to the actuatable stop.

28. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the actuator contacts the actuatable stop, causing the actuatable stop to move between contracted and expanded positions.

29. (previously presented)The guidewire of claim 28, wherein the actuator has proximal and distal ends, and the distal end of the actuator contacts the actuatable stop.